



**United States Border Patrol
San Diego Sector
Public Information Office
2411 Boswell Road
San Diego, California 91914-3519
(619) 216-4182**



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 26, 2001**

BORDER PATROL POISED FOR INTERVENTION AS WINTER STORM ARRIVES IN SAN DIEGO

San Diego, California: As a second winter storm bears down on southern California, San Diego Sector Border Patrol Agents continue to be on high alert. The national weather service (NOAA) reports a storm from the Gulf of Alaska that in the next 24 hours will produce 4 to 8 inches of snow down to the 2,000 to 3,000 foot level.

Since the storm of January 10, 2001, the Campo Station has deployed the First Alert Snow Team (FAST) to patrol common crossing points where migrants eventually traverse into the snow ridden Laguna Mountains. During this storm, the efforts of the FAST Unit and the Border Patrol Search Trauma and Rescue Team (BORSTAR) resulted in the rescue of 45 people who would likely have succumbed to the harsh weather conditions.

The FAST Unit and BORSTAR continue their deployment in the Laguna Mountains, attempting to repeat their proactive support if needed. Snow isn't the only concern as rain falls in the lower elevations. During inclement weather, East County Agents are supplied with cold weather kits to provide immediate assistance to individuals they encounter who have suffered exposure to the cold. These kits include supplies to help quickly regulate body temperature.

"The Agents of San Diego Sector should be commended for their courageous life saving efforts and commitment to the sanctity of human life. On a daily basis, Agents are placed in situations that are above and beyond the normal call of duty and they continually rise to the occasion with little notoriety or fanfare," said San Diego Sector Deputy Chief Harold R. Beasley, Sr.

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